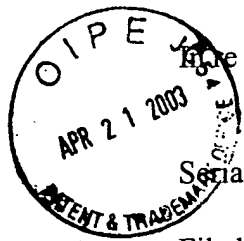


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re Application of:  
Jason K. Trotter et al.

Serial No.: 10/043,392

Filed: November 7, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
MAKING A BALL AND SOCKET  
JOINT AND JOINT MADE BY SAME

§  
§ Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
§  
§  
§ Examiner: Unassigned  
§  
§  
§ Atty Docket: ITWO:0015/YOD  
§ 13085  
§

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N.L.H.  
4-28-03  
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APR 22 2003  
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING<br>37 C.F.R. 1.8   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below: |                     |
| April 15, 2003  | <i>Carla Deblaw</i> |
| Date  | Carla Deblaw        |

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c) AND 1.98**

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), Applicants respectfully request that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be entered and that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, as an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b), or as a representation that no other possibly material information, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b), exists.

Furthermore, the references listed on the attached Form 1449 are not to be construed as an admission that these references qualify as prior art as to the above-referenced application or any related application. Rather, these references are being presented for the Examiner's consideration

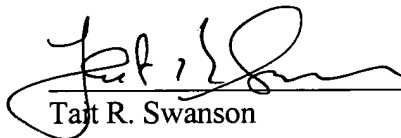
without prejudice to Applicants' right to demonstrate that any of these references do not qualify as prior art should the Examiner choose to apply any of these references.

The following information is listed below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Any explanation of non-English language documents contained in this Information Disclosure Statement is believed to constitute a concise explanation of the relevance of the listed reference as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the listed reference, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3). Specifically, the Applicants note that the foreign references cited in the attached PTO-1449 relate to ball and socket joints.

Attached hereto is (1) a Certification as specified in § 1.97(e)(1) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c); and (2) a form PTO-1449 listing patents for the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 15, 2003

  
Tait R. Swanson  
Reg. No. 48,226  
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| April 15, 2003  | <i>Carla Deblaw</i> |
| Date  | Carla Deblaw        |

Sir:

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in the supplemental information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of supplemental information disclosure statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 15, 2003

*Tait R. Swanson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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